

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** Vice Chairman Taylor Brown, on March 18, 2009 at  
10:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Jeff Essmann, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Taylor Brown, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)  
Sen. Gary Branae (D)  
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)  
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)  
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)  
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 506, 3/11/2009

Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON SB 506**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:04 Sen. Jeff Essmann (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on  
SB 506, Uniform local option tourism tax.

**EXHIBIT (tas60a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:13:40 Jack Johnson, retired public school teacher, Billings,  
also Immediate-Past Chairman, Yellowstone County on  
Aging  
00:18:55 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns  
00:25:08 Greg Kohn, Billings resident  
00:28:57 Bruce MacIntyre, representing Billings Chamber of  
Commerce  
00:31:29 David Smith, President & C.E.O., Bozeman Chamber of  
Commerce  
00:34:43 Tim Burton, City Manager, Helena  
00:36:52 Steve Arveschoug, representing Yellowstone County and  
Big Sky Economic Development Corporation  
00:39:51 Ed Meece, City Manager, Livingston  
00:42:30 Bob Gilbert, representing City of Glendive  
00:43:05 Kaaren Jacobson, Mayor, Bozeman, also speaking for  
Bozeman City Commissioners  
00:45:41 Glenn Oppel, representing Montana Association of  
Realtors (MAR)  
00:47:40 Tina Volek, City Administrator, Billings  
00:50:34 Bill Beecher, Great Falls City Commissioner  
00:51:27 Gordon Morris, representing Lewis & Clark County  
Commissioners  
00:52:11 Bob Rice, Mayor, City of Havre  
00:52:32 Jani McCall, representing City of Billings  
00:54:08 John Engen, Mayor, Missoula  
00:54:55 Vince Ruegamer, Billings City Council member  
00:56:30 Mona Jamison, representing Big Sky Resort Area District  
00:59:28 Greg Doyon, City Manager, Great Falls  
00:59:55 Jay Skoog, representing American Council of Engineering  
Companies of Montana (ACEC)  
01:00:19 Larry J. Bonderud, Mayor, City of Shelby  
01:00:33 Mike McGinley, representing Montana Association of  
Counties (MACo)  
01:00:56 John Ostlund, Yellowstone County Commissioner

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:01:24 Robert Ward, Vice President, Enterprise Rent-A-Car,  
Helena

01:03:12 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTA)

**EXHIBIT (tas60a02)**

01:10:55 Jeff Taylor, representing Dollar Rent-A-Car, Kalispell,  
Missoula and Great Falls

01:12:42 Nancy Schlepp, representing Montana Farm Bureau  
Federation (MFBF)

**EXHIBIT (tas60a03)**

01:18:41 Mark Staples, representing Montana Tavern Association  
(MTA)

01:24:05 Jean Johnson, representing Montana Outfitters and  
Guides Association

**EXHIBIT (tas60a04)**

01:27:46 Brad Griffin, representing Montana Restaurant  
Association

01:30:56 Neil Peterson, representing Gaming Industry Association  
of Montana

01:31:40 Kevin Nelson, Billings resident

01:34:57 Greg Van Horssen, representing State Farm Insurance  
Companies, also speaking for Dwight Easton, Farmers  
Insurance Group of Companies, and Jacqueline Lenmark,  
American Insurance Association

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:36:58 Sen. Gillan

01:37:32 Sen. Essmann (Sponsor)

01:40:20 Sen. Tutvedt

01:41:31 Mary Whittinghill, MTA

01:43:09 Sen. Erickson

01:44:29 Sen. Essmann

01:45:38 Sen. Gebhardt

01:46:20 Sen. Essmann

01:46:56 Sen. Kaufmann

01:47:20 Sen. Essmann

01:49:11 Sen. Black

01:49:37 Sen. Essmann

01:55:45 Sen. Hamlett

01:56:22 Mark Staples, MTA

01:58:01 Sen. Black

01:59:13 Sen. Essmann

01:59:54 Sen. Hamlett

02:00:07 Robert Ward, Helena

02:00:41 Sen. Hamlett

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)**

02:01:02 Sen. Essmann  
02:02:46 Sen. Black  
02:03:31 Robert Ward  
02:03:42 Vice Chair Brown  
02:04:15 Nancy Schlepp, MFBF

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:05:48 Sen. Essmann

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:15 P.M.

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Debra Polhemus, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([tas60aad.pdf](#))**